

From: Sebastian Fisher
Sent: Monday, July 31, 2023 10:29 AM
To: Licensing <licensing@westberks.gov.uk>
Subject: Watermill Theatre Licence Extension LA2023

To whom it may concern.

I am writing this email in objection to the Watermill Theatre's application to extend their licence. As someone that spends considerable time in the grounds of Bagnor Manor I feel that the granting of such an extension would be detrimental to the area.

The peace and tranquility of the site and its surroundings would be under considerable threat from noise and potentially light pollution on a scale previously unseen. I am concerned that the residents of Bagnor Manor and Manor Road will suffer considerable disruption to sleep and leisure-time with the expected increase in outdoor activities and alcohol consumption at The Watermill Theatre. These include loud music, noise from performances, public disorder, and vehicular noise (particularly following the end of performances or the closure of drinking facilities). One would also presume the potential for expansion of their activities could reach far beyond this.

Further to this, as an environmental scientist I can personally verify the diversity of wildlife present around Bagnor Manor in close proximity to The Watermill Theatre. I have monitored the site using camera traps there for some time. It is my opinion that the potential noise (and light) pollution caused by activities associated with such an extension, particularly given the increased frequency and longevity of said outdoor events, would have a deleterious effect on terrestrial and aquatic faunal abundance and diversity. It should also be of high consideration that Bagnor Manor, The River Lambourn, and Rack Marsh, are all SSSI sites and home to many such sensitive species, some deemed to have protectable status. Commuting bats using the riparian corridors of Bagnor, for example, may be particularly sensitive to anthropogenic disturbance.

Given the information presented here I hope that all factors will be considered before the granting of an extension that will result in imminent and lasting changes for the worst on both a human and environmental level. A decision that would, on balance, result in greater overall costs than benefits.

Yours faithfully

Seb Fisher